

## Chronology

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### Native Asphalt Company S/047/036

Uintah County, Utah  
August 16, 1988 - October 8, 1991  
(prepared October 19, 1991)

- Note: File M/047/004 also refers to a tar sands operation adjacent to what is currently the Cameron site. The adjacent mine operation began permitting procedures in 1974 as a proposed oil extraction and strip mining project with a State Oil, Gas and Hydrocarbon lease. Sohio Petroleum Company (a.k.a. Burman Oil & Gas Company) began permitting the operation while the mine was still under control of Arizona Fuels. The site was reclaimed and then seeded twice. The operator was released from further reclamation in 1988. **This chronology will only detail events which involve Native Asphalt Company.**
- August 16, 1988 Division letter to Native Asphalt Company (NAC) informing them of the reseeding work Standard Oil Company will be performing this fall.
- October 11, 1988 File memo. NAC is the new owner of the Asphalt Ridge Tar Sands site. While inspecting Standard Oil's reclamation work, some mining activity by NAC was discovered. NAC has not filed a NOI with the Division. The new mining activity is located in a riparian area, spring and associated stream. No acceptable mitigation to alleviate impacts to this area have been initiated by NAC.
- October 27, 1988 Letter to NAC regarding the Notice of Intent requirement. A 10/11/88 site inspection revealed mining activity in the area. NAC must file an NOI with the Division as soon as possible. This could be a SMO (<5 acres) or a LMO (>5 acres). The Division will ask NAC to take measures to alleviate the impact to the stream and riparian zone.
- November 1, 1988 Received letter from NAC in response to 10/27/88 letter. Letter of authorization DOE/047/026 sent to NAC by the Division is enclosed {not in this file}. NAC has been doing testing work at the site. They claim that water presently on the site is runoff from the perennial stream. They are installing a system to take

water past the mine and into its natural drainage. DOGM people have been on the property reviewing the drilling and mining (refers to E/047/035) and never had any complaints about the operation.

December 7, 1988	Received NOI-SMO form for Cameron #1 mine.
December 7, 1988	Letter to NAC indicating the NOI is complete at this time.
February 6, 1989	Letter to NAC requesting annual report for 1988.
February 17, 1989	Received 1988 annual report. Cleared a two-acre area and stockpiled soil removed. Placed culverts to allow drainage of surface water. Total unreclaimed acreage = one acre.
July 18, 1989	Received NOI-SMO from NAC for a proposed new operation, Native #1, on State Lands in NE1/4, Sec. 36, T5S, R21E and NW1/4, Sec. 31, T5S, R22E. Estimated project disturbance is 3-4 acres.
July 20, 1989	Letter to NAC regarding Native #1 Project. Division policy considers this latest NOI as a revision to the Cameron #1 project. In order to maintain the "Small Mine" status, the combined acreage of both projects must remain under 5 acres.
August 26, 1989	Received copy of 7/25/89 letter to NAC from State Lands. Letter reminds operator that lease requires notification to State Lands 60 days prior to commencing any surface disturbance. An approved mining or reclamation plan and reclamation bond must be posted prior to any mining.
August 2, 1989	Received copy of 8/1/89 letter from State Lands and Forestry to NAC. State Lands requests more information than what is contained in the DOGM NOI.
August 15, 1989	File memo regarding site inspection of 8/9/89. The stream has been diverted using a 4 inch plastic pipe. The total acreage of the stockpile pad is approximately 3-4 acres. The pit encompasses approximately 1 acre. The disturbance is entirely on patented property.



- October 12, 1989      Received copy of 10/10/89 letter from State Lands to NAC regarding the proposed project on State Lands. The letter lists details which complicate a mining operation at the proposed location. The location will cause the project to involve more surface disturbance and reclamation than envisioned. Further discussions are recommended.
- January 5, 1990      Request for 1989 annual report sent to NAC.
- January 10, 1990      Received 1989 annual report. Tar sand site enlarged by 0.5 acres. Total unreclaimed acreage = 4 acres.
- August 21, 1990      File memo regarding site inspection of 8/15/90. Operator has increased the size of the disturbance considerably from the original proposal. The pit is approximately 1.5 acres. A large ore stockpile encompasses approximately 2 acres. A scalped area north of the stockpile encompasses approximately 1.5 acres. A scalped area east of the pit covers 1 acre. Bulldozer disturbance in the stream/riparian area covers 0.5 - 1 acre. A flat area due east of the stockpile encompasses 0.75 acres. Total disturbance is approximately 7.5 acres.
- Noncompliance problems which are evident are: 1) topsoil salvage is not apparent; 2) the 5 acre limit has been exceeded without notifying the Division; 3) two ponds exist with no permits from BWPC; 4) surface water degradation is occurring as a result of mining; 5) the operator has not taken sufficient steps to mitigate impacts to water quality and the riparian areas. A letter of noncompliance followed by a site visit are recommended, along with notifying BWPC and Dam Safety.
- September 5, 1990      Letter to NAC regarding noncompliance concerns discovered during 8/15/90 site inspection of Cameron #1 site. The letter lists 6 major categories of concern: 1) two ponds with no permit; 2) a deteriorating impoundment structure with no permit; 3) an impacted riparian area; 4) little or not topsoil salvage; 5) a large transformer; and 6) a disturbance exceeding 5 acres. NAC is requested to contact the Division by 10/10/90 regarding these concerns.



- October 15, 1990 File memo regarding site inspection of 10/10/90 performed by staff from DOGM, Army Corps of Engineers, Division of Water Rights, and NAC. The site does fit within the Corp's definition of a wetland and must be permitted. The State Engineers Office requested that NAC re-enforce the dike embankment and install a larger 24" culvert. The operator has constructed a diversion to channel water away from the pit. An oil and grease sample of pit discharge water was taken. Issues which remain to be resolved are: 1) the question of permitting under a large mine NOI; 2) including areas mined of sand and gravel on the site; and 3) evaluation of the transformer for PCB's. Scheduling a meeting in the near future to address these issues was discussed.
- October 23, 1990 Oil and grease sample results received.
- December 31, 1990 Request for 1990 annual report sent to NAC.
- April 18, 1991 Received 1990 annual report. Material was mined by deepening the existing pit. Dozer work leveled the area where aggregate was mined. The area is ready for reseeded. Total unreclaimed acreage - 4 acres.
- August 29, 1991 File memo regarding site inspection of 8/21/91. Stockpile and scalped areas are essentially unchanged. The dike across the wetlands area was breached with water running through it. Water is being diverted around the pit via a ditch and berm.
- September 16, 1991 Received a letter and NOI-SMO from NAC. They have contoured the scalped area and seeded it in May, 1991. By reclaiming this area, the disturbance is now estimated at approximately 3 acres. NAC wishes to revise the current permit to include the Cameron site and the new site which is within a mile. The new site is on state lands and is estimated to disturb 0.5 acres.
- September 23, 1991 Received copy of 9/19/91 letter from State Lands to NAC. State Lands is in receipt of NAC's proposal and has noted that that lease is scheduled to expire on October 15, 1991. The lease requires a 60-day notification period prior to commencement of operations. A site visit with DOGM and State Lands is recommended.

October 8, 1991      File memo regarding joint site inspection performed on 10/3/91. The location of the proposed site and the existing Cameron site were inspected. The operator wishes to use the access road from the north of the new site rather than the route from the south. A pit location which was mutually acceptable to both agencies and the operator was found. Several questions regarding the specifics of the new operation were raised. NAC indicated that this would be a pilot project and they are waiting for some technologies to be developed before they proceed. The NOI information has been sent to RDCC which requires 60 days for processing. State Lands requires a minimum bond of \$5,000 plus any reclamation costs beyond that. NAC will provide additional information regarding the specifics of the proposed mine. The issue of partial reclamation release of disturbed areas at the Cameron site does not concern State Lands, since it is private property. The Cameron site was inspected and found to be in need of further reclamation before the Division would consider release. Photos taken to document the revegetation success, along with this memo will be used in arriving at the Division's decision regarding partial release. The Division will contact the operator regarding this decision.